#### MJ Ranch, LLC

May 1, 2024 - Volume 6 Issue 5



# Spring has Sprung...Now it Gets Real

Well it took is sweet time coming, but spring has finally arrived on the ranch. We had to survive quite a dry spell in March/April where the grass just would not grow. So, we had to keep the cows in their winter pastures a little longer than we wanted to. We did have to turn them out recently, since we were running out of hay. The grass was not as established as we would have liked, but we had no choice. So we are moving the herd every day or two so they don't overgraze any single pasture. Thankfully, we have had some timely rains recently and the pastures are starting to recover rapidly. As you can see in the picture below, they are not difficult to move. Anytime they see us in the vicinity, they come running to the next gate.



They enjoy eating the new grass. Spring grass is very high in protein, sugars, and carbohydrate which all equals more energy in the cattle. Kind of like a five year olds on Halloween candy.

Next up is to move the calves we are finishing for fall beef to our finishing pasture. This is an 80 acre pasture that is divided into 25 sublots via electric fencing. The calves are moved every 1-2 days into a new plot where they intensively graze to maximize weight gain and marbling. Drinking water is pumped into the sublot using a solar pump placed in a spring fed pond.



This pasture is one of the unique features of our ranch and is the one of the keys to producing our high quality grass-fed beef.

In mid-May we will be rounding up the cow/calf herd and weaning and

vaccinating the calves. This requires all hands on deck. We are so grateful to all our family and friends that help us out every year. We could not do it without you!

The final main activity for the coming month is our annual audit from A Greener World for 100% Grassfed/Grass Finished beef and for Animal Welfare recertification. This involves an inspection of our property and facilities and a review of our annual records. For those of you that are interested, you can find the standards we are audited against on the A Greeener World website at <u>https://agreenerworld.org/</u> <u>certifications/</u>

Even though it is a crazy time of the year, we are so glad for the warmer weather, the rains, and the beautiful sunrises.



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### Beef Updates:

#### **BULK BEEF**

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are currently sold out of our pre-sales for 2024. We will put those still interested on a waiting list.
- The way it works is: 1) You tell us you want a quarter, half, or a whole. 2) We will follow up with you with additional details. 3) You can confirm your interest and send a deposit (\$100) to reserve your beef
- Please contact us with any questions.

#### **RETAIL BEEF**

Cuts directly from MJ Ranch

• We have a very limited quantity of retail beef, primarily ground beef, available on the farm. Contact Joyce at mjranch66044@gmail.com or 785-865-2503 if you are interested.



### What's New on the Ranch

In our last newsletter I talked about our need for a new bull. We got a great bull from a Pharo Cattle Co. auction in April. They specialize in raising bulls for grass-fed operations and have all the genetics we are looking for in a bull. Meet Kilroy, a 5-star rated red angus bull. Not only is he a great looking bull, he has a great personality!!



We will have some very limited quantities of retail beef available at the ranch, primarily ground beef. Purchases will be limited. Contact us after if interested in purchasing some retail beef.

Our beef is all 2-year old, 100% grass-fed Angus beef, that has <u>never</u> been fed grain, always been kept on pasture, never in a feedlot, no growth hormones or antibiotics, and always been given humane care....as certified by A Greener World. We have 2 certifications: Animal Welfare Approved (humane care) & Certified Grass-fed (fed only grass/hay)!





## Connect with us!

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